

Environmental Justice/Pollution Prevention Grant Guidance/Request for Proposals

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00230; FRL-5766-1]

Notice of Availability of FY 1998 Multimedia Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Grant Funds

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting grant proposals under the Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant program. EPA anticipates that as much as \$4 million will be available in Fiscal Year (FY) 1998. The purpose of this program is to support pollution prevention approaches that address environmental justice concerns in affected communities. The grant funds will support: (1) Local environmental, environmental justice, and community grassroots organizations, including religious and civic organizations, as well as tribal governments that promote environmental justice using pollution prevention as the preferred approach; (2) national and regional organizations working in partnership with local organizations, or tribal governments to promote environmental justice using pollution prevention approaches; (3) state and local governments; and (4) academic institutions.

DATES: All applications must be received by EPA's contractor, Eastern Research Group (ERG), located in Arlington, VA, by April 20, 1998.
No applications will be accepted after this date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain copies of the EJP2 grant program guidance and application package, or to obtain more information regarding the EJP2 grant program, please contact Louise Little at (703) 841-0483. A complete electronic copy of the EJP2 grant program guidance and application package is also available on the EPA Home Page on the Internet. The Internet address is: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/ejp2>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scope and Purpose of the EJP2 Grant Program

The purpose of the FY 1998 EJP2 grant program is to support the use of pollution prevention approaches to address the environmental problems of minority communities and/or low-income communities and Federally recognized tribes. This grant program is designed to fund projects that have a direct impact on affected communities. Funds awarded must be used to support pollution prevention programs in minority and/or low-income communities. The Agency strongly encourages cooperative efforts between communities, businesses, industry, and government to address common pollution prevention goals. Projects funded under this grant may

involve public education, training, demonstration projects, collaborative public-private partnerships, or innovative approaches to develop, evaluate, and demonstrate non-regulatory strategies and technologies. Grants will be awarded to national organizations for projects to assess the results of previous and ongoing EJP2 grants and related information and to develop tools for bringing pollution prevention approaches to bear on the problems of environmental justice communities.

II. Definition of Environmental Justice and Pollution Prevention

Environmental justice is defined by EPA as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs, and policies. Fair treatment means that no racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the operation of industrial, municipal, and commercial enterprises, and from the execution of Federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 establishes a hierarchy of environmental preferences. These practices include, in order of preference:

Pollution prevention/source reduction

Recycling

Treatment

Disposal

Pollution prevention means source reduction; it includes any practice that reduces or eliminates any pollutant at the source of generation prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. Pollution prevention also includes practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through:

Increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources

Protection of natural resources by conservation

This grant program is focused on implementing practices at the top of the hierarchy--pollution prevention/source reduction--to bring about better environmental protection.

III. Eligibility

Any affected, nonprofit community organizations with section 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(4) Internal Revenue Service tax status or Federally recognized tribal organizations may submit an application upon the publication of this solicitation. A nonprofit organization is defined as any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organizations that:

(1) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest.

(2) Is not organized primarily for profit.

(3) Uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations.

State and local governments and academic institutions are also eligible. Organizations must be incorporated by April 20, 1998, to be eligible to receive funds. Private businesses, Federal agencies, and individuals are ineligible for this grant. Organizations excluded from applying directly, as well as those inexperienced in grant writing, are encouraged to develop partnerships and prepare joint proposals with eligible national, regional, or local organizations.

As a result of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, EPA (and other Federal agencies) may not award grants to nonprofit, section 501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying activities. This restriction applies to any lobbying activities of a section 501(c)(4) organization without distinguishing between lobbying funded by Federal money and lobbying funded by other sources.

No applicant can receive two grants for the same project at one time. EPA will consider only one proposal for a given project. Applicants may submit more than one application; however, applications must be for separate and distinct projects.

Organizations seeking funds from the EJP2 grant program can request up to \$100,000 for local projects, and up to \$250,000 for projects that involve multiple communities located in more than one of the 10 EPA Regions, or projects that are national in scope. In accordance with 40 CFR parts 23 and 30, EPA no longer requires cost sharing or matching under this grant program.

Dated: January 15, 1998.

William H. Sanders,

Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

! I40[FR Doc. 98-????? Filed ??-??-98; 8:45 am]

! I68BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

→